Scheme to provide Facilities to Low Income Tourists

1077. DR. H. P. SHARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state the details of the Central Government scheme to provide boarding and lodging facilities to the Indian tourists belonging to the low income group so as to enable them to visit the religious and cultural centres within the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED): The Central Ministry of Tourism has schemes for construction of Yatrikas/ Dharamshalas and Yatri Niwases at religious and cultural Centres. Yatrikas at 5 religious centres have already been completed while work is in progress at 7 other centres. Similarly, the Ministry has sanctioned Yatri Niwases at 18 centres.

Use of Neem Tree

1078. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that research institutions in India, China, Bangladesh and Philippines have of late been vigorously studying the prospects of putting neem tree to use as a catalyst for rural development;

(b) if so, which of the research institutions in India have been carrying out such projects, and with what success so far; and

(c) whether there is any arrangement in India for monitoring the success achieved in this regard in different countries; if so, what success has been globally achieved in respect of the research work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) According to available information, 'Neem' is being planted only in Bangladesh and India.

(b) and (c) The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education which has been established recently, is charged with the responsibility of carrying out research in this regard and set up a network to coordinate the activities of various organisations, national and international engaged in this field. Research on planting of 'Neem' has been undertaken by Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, and its Regional Centres and the Institutes under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). Some laboratories of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research including National Chemical Laboratory, are conducting research on chemical and other properties of 'Neem'.

Reclamation of Degraded Land

1079. DR. H. P. SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the annual target of reclamation of degraded land;

(b) the funds required and the funds made available;

(c) the area reclaimed so far; and

(d) the strategy worked out to achieve the annual targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) The annual target of reclamation of waste lands through afforestation for 1987-88 is 460 crore seedlings to be planted over an area of 2.30 million hectares.

(b) The estimated requirement of funds for this is Rs. 1150 crores. Central Government had made a provision of Rs. 403.41 crores. Funds will also be available from the State plans and sectors like railways,